

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An electrochemical cell which comprises the following:
 - (i) a positive electrode which, in addition to the cathodic active material, contains a compound MA_xO_y , where M is an alkali or alkaline earth metal and A is a non-metallic element where $0.3 \leq x \leq 2.0$ and $1.3 \leq y \leq 4.0$, such that on charging, the acid anhydride A_xO_y is generated "in situ", and
 - (ii) a solid composite polymer film acting as separator whose structural units contain basic functional groups containing nitrogen atoms in 5 or 6 member heterocyclic rings or in tertiary aliphatic configuration into which is incorporated an ionisable salt LiX , having a higher decomposition voltage than MA_xO_y , where X is an acid radical.
2. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alkali metal is lithium.
3. (Currently amended) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 [[or claim 2]] wherein the non-metallic element is sulphur, nitrogen, carbon or phosphorus.
4. (Currently amended) An electrochemical cell as claimed in [[any one of claims 1-3]] claim 1 wherein the acid radical X is one or more of the following:
 $AlCl_4$, BF_4 , PF_6 , ClO_4 , CF_3SO_3 , $N(CF_3SO_2)_2$.

5. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alkali metal M is lithium, and the element A is sulphur.

6. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound MA_xO_y is lithium dithionite.

7. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound MA_xO_y is lithium sulphite.

8. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound MA_xO_y is sodium dithionite.

9. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solid polymer is poly(4-vinylpyridine), less than 5% cross linked.

10. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solid polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).

11. (Original) An electrochemical cell as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solid polymer is thermally restructured poly(acrylonitrile) – $(CH=C-CN)_n$ –.

12. (Currently amended) An electrochemical cell as claimed in [[any one of claims 1-11]] claim 1 wherein the cathode active material is lithium cobalt oxide LiCoO_2 or a mixed nickel cobalt oxide $\text{LiNi}_{0.85}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{O}_2$.

13. (Currently amended) An electrochemical cell as claimed in [[any one of claims 1-11]] claim 1 wherein the cathode active material is lithium sulphite and a transition metal oxide such as VO_2 or M_nO_x where $2 \geq x \geq 1$.

14. (Currently amended) An electrochemical cell as claimed in [[any one of claims 1-13]] claim 1 when used as a primary or rechargeable battery or a supercapacitor.